



COVID-19 Economic Task Force

Meeting #8

AGENDA

May 6, 2020

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/331091208?pwd=Y1VFZnhscngwZHFoUTdjTGNYcjh5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 331 091 208

Password: 031262

One tap mobile

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WindsorEssex COVID- 19 Economic Task Force Purpose:

In a timely manner, collect, coordinate and disseminate information on strategies, programs and other remedies that are available to mitigate the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the economic well-being of workers, entrepreneurs, businesses and the Windsor-Essex regional economy.

Assist in the development of industry specific, scenario-based recovery strategies.

1. **3:15 pm – 3:20 pm** Remarks from Chair – Stephen MacKenzie

2. **3:20 pm - 4:00 pm** Committee Reports
 - Survey** – Workforce Windsor Essex & SBC
 - Agriculture & Agri-Food** – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
 - Logistics, Transportation and Cross Border Issues** – Institute for Border Logistics & Security
 - Hospitality & Tourism** – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island
 - Professional Services & Retail** – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
 - Manufacturing** – Canadian Association of Mold Makers

3. **4:00 pm – 4:15 pm** New Business – (all)

Survey – Workforce Windsor Essex & SBC

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3:17 PM

Yvonne Pilon-

- Tech community Town Hall – Friday at 1pm
- How our local tech communities have adapted?

Ginny Wilkinson

Steve MacKenzie Update

- Completed 4 of the 5 sessions with Committees regarding economic recovery
 - o To develop scenario based economic recovery strategies
 - o Looking forward to that session with great interest
 - o A true grasp of the issues that companies and industries are facing
 - o Very good grasp of what factors are going to impact recovery

Committee Update

Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

James Maitland

- Rice market
 - o We are seeing 20-30% price increases in the market this week compared to this time last year.
- Retail Softening
 - o 10-20% softening
 - o Are anticipating food service demand to increase in the next couple months but not to the same levels we have seen in the past.
- Ebbs and Flows of traditional buying
 - o People are buying more as people are stocking up
 - o Regular demand patters are different
- Elimination of Contact jobs
 - o Reduce total size of supply chain
 - o Will there be more local?
- Retailer Penalties –item of concern
 - o Although many have said they will not enforce penalties during spikes in retail demand some such as Walmart have made no comment on the subject and suppliers could be facing \$10,000 fines or more depending on their categories. Companies such as LCL and Sobeys have communicated they have turned their penalty programs off, having government look at this and freight subsidies also as we are seeing significant demurrage charges from freight companies waiting at retailers to be unloaded.
- AC Neilson
 - o Released a summary last week indicating that click and collect has taken up significantly and consumers who were nervous on this trend before are enjoying it and they expect e commerce numbers to stay strong (50% above pre COVID trends).
 - o Click and collect is up and here to stay

Steve MacKenzie on Agriculture

- TFW
 - o Currently designed for being communal
 - o This may need to change

Marion Fantetti

- Ag Supports are not going to the
- Less than half of what was hoped for
- Going more to cattle and pork producers
- Not into grape growers
- Hoping for another round of funding for Greenhouse Growers specific challenges

Matt Johnson

- Asked for \$2.5 bn but was funded \$250 million
- Gov't is trying to remain flexible

Stephen MacKenzie

- US Gov't has also \$19 bn for US funding
- Our levels of gov't have been very open to tweaking and editing the funding announcements that have not been supported by funding
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Logistics, Transportation and Cross Border Issues – Institute for Border Logistics & Security

Susan Anzolin

- Meeting yesterday with the committee
- Since last week
 - o Monday – GOV't of Canada – Federal COVID-19 Supply council
 - Canadian Truck alliance
 - Council is to build innovative
 - Production, sourcing and distribution strategies for PPE
 - NASCO
 - Ensuring a North American Supply Chain
 - Supply chain has effectively been operating since COVID-19 outbreak
- Gov't Announcement
 - o Ag and food processing
 - o 3rd sectoral strategy
 - o Funding to Oil and Gas/ Arts Culture and Sport Sector
 - o Expecting each sector to be increasing advocacy for funding
 - o Airline industry may also be looking for bailout –
 - o Expect a Trucking sectorial strategy
- Update of Feed the Frontlines
 - o Launch by Windsor Transportation club
 - o Thanking the Frontline workers
 - o Delivered 1500 meals to regional hospitals
 - o Also supported 9 local restaurants
 - o Raised over \$18,500 so far

Lee McGrath

- Canadian Content Clause
 - o Potential for the ability for

Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

Gordon Orr

- Overall Positive side
- First Draft of Recovery Plan has been created
- Mid-May for Board Endorsement of plan
- **4th Survey TIAO**
- Between April 22nd and April 27th the Tourism Industry Association conducted a survey. In RTO 1, which Tourism Windsor Essex is part of, the following data was captured:

As of April 27th, 2020

- 60% of businesses had temporarily closed (was 66%)
- 43% have laid off staff (was 43%)
- 45% have reduced their services (was 28%)
- 30% had applied for COVID-19 related aid funding (this is broken up into several sectors now – some highlights)
 - 18% do not qualify for any government funding
 - 32% have applied for the 75% wage subsidy
 - 48% have applied for CERB
- 6% would not be opening for the summer season (new question)

Looking forward to the next three months, May through July:

- 27% may not be able to pay their rent or mortgage (new stat)
- 51% would continue to stay closed temporarily (was 53%)
- 43% would lay off staff or keep staff in a lay of position (53%)
- 38% are worried they will be unable to open for the summer season (was 50%)
- 28% are worried they may not be able to pay staff wages (was 35%)
- 8% may have to close their business permanently (was 16%)
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- There are pockets of optimism but are struggling still

Dharmesh Patel

- Food Supply and Security Webinar recording we had last week with Sysco
 - <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/events/article-food-supply-and-security-webcast/>

Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

Rakesh Naidu

- Chamber has partnered with Odette School of Business on an Organizational and Employee Resilience Survey to be released in WE in a 10-14 days. Our group will now meet bi-weekly (May 19th next). Doesn't look like Rakesh is on the call.
 - Support services training and webinars.
 - Study of how to return back to
- Checklist for tailor made to the specific businesses to re-open
- Honda
 - Global Operations
 - Challenge faced around the world is workforce availability
 - We may be facing some of these challenges also.
 - Companies will need to face access to these talents

Stephen MacKenzie

- Some of the other committees have also noted that the various business types are facing challenges
- Honda example – guidelines are quite vague – and each committee is

Daniel Biafore

BASF Supply Chain Platform

- Working with Transform and Windsor Regional
- Urgent Pandemic Supply Request → Directly to WFCU Centre → access supply
- Creation of supply management for healthcare sector – slide to be shared
- BASF Platform
 - Allows products and PPE
 - Allows input materials – IE Ethanol
 - Provides locations where the product can be found

Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers

Shelley Fellows

- Second financial deep dive survey & Weekly impact survey
- Financial Survey
 - o Financial Ask us anything was held last week
 - o First set of responses was interesting
- Survey Results
 - o Do you have sufficient PPE? – 40% said they do not –
 - most are missing Masks and Gloves
 - o Why – access to suppliers
 - o Up to 470 Layoffs this week
 - Potential for workplace to not qualify for CEWS – may lay off ee's instead of staying on furlough
- Without access to PPE → the re-launch will not happen and smooth
- Industrial health and Safety
 - o Deliberately vague from province ?
 - o Need to develop guidelines for manufacturing protocols
- BASF
 - o Availability of PPE when the businesses open up

Bryce Philips

- No experience of PPE as of yet
- Full suits are even being used when people are extremely close to each other
- Other project
 - o Monitoring for the impact for Health and Safety requirements
 - o Bridging NA is sensing some inefficiency due to safety equipment that is needed to prepare
 - o Scheduled performance index has actually increased
 - o Construction continues on both sides of the border
- Focus on the next phase of bridge building (building phase)
 - o What is the supply chain going to look like for Sub-contractors over the next year?
 - o We are fortunate right now
 - o In a year (when building are being built)
 - How do we manage the expected challenge of finding subcontractors

Yvonne Pilon

- Tech
 - o Instacart saw an increase of 650% in new users in the US between March and April
 - o Growth in online sales per sector (YoY) March 11th - 29th 2020 vs. the same period in 2019
 - Furniture and home decor +106%
 - Food and restaurants +160%
 - Clothing +21%
 - Sporting goods +105%
 - Household appliances, electronics, building materials and renovations. +161%

Vlad Franjo – IRAP

- Most critical products that were needed by Canada have been covered
- IRAP Wage Subsidy – May 11th Funding announcement

Chris Savard

- Mall has opened
- Allowed 59 tenants
- Currently with 6-7
- Little customer traffic to being with – not open for 'walking around'
- Manitoba

- Live for retail
- Winnipeg is a similar size mall – only 30 have elected to open up with 150 total
- Slowly ramp up over time
- As early as Friday
 - Garden Centres
 - Nursery
 - Curbside pickup
- Open only for essential services

Ginny Wilkinson- DEGC

Update on Detroit

- Doing ok
- Many deals are still moving forward
- Large number of layoffs (small, medium and large businesses)
- Tremendous effort in downtown, midtown, and stadium district
- Starting to see ramifications of Hospital Systems of non-essential surgeries
- Nationally
- Crain's is doing a townhall tomorrow at 4pm

Crain's Small Business - <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2923206000377742860>